

House Resolution 17 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY M. SMITH, OLDSON, H. MILLER, T. OLSON,
RUNNING-MARQUARDT, RIDING, FORBES, KELLEY,
HUNTER, MUHLBAUER, GAINES, STECKMAN, WOOD,
JACOBY, PRICHARD, STAED, COHOON, LYKAM, LENSING,
WESSEL-KROESCHELL, ABDUL-SAMAD, STUTSMAN, DUNKEL,
ANDERSON, THEDE, LUNDBY, KEARNS, RUFF, THOMAS,
HALL, OURTH, BEARINGER, WOLFE, KAJTAZOVIC, KRESSIG,
WINCKLER, HEDDENS, T. TAYLOR, MASCHER, MCCARTHY,
GASKILL, HANSON, DAWSON, ISENHART, KOESTER,
GRASSLEY, LOFGREN, HEATON, and MURPHY

1 A Resolution honoring United States Senator Thomas
2 Richard "Tom" Harkin for four decades of public
3 service.

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Richard "Tom" Harkin was born in
5 Cumming, Iowa, in 1939, one of six children born to
6 an Iowa coal miner father and a Slovenian immigrant
7 mother; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Harkin graduated from Dowling
9 High School, Iowa State University, and the Catholic
10 University of America's Columbus School of Law; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Harkin served in the United States
12 Navy as an active-duty jet pilot from 1962 to 1967, and
13 went on to serve in the reserves, retiring in 1989 with
14 the rank of lieutenant commander; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Harkin began his Congressional
16 career in 1974, winning election to the House of
17 Representatives, a seat which he held for the next
18 decade; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1984 Senator Harkin was elected to the

1 Senate, where he has continued his career in public
2 service; and

3 WHEREAS, over four decades Senator Harkin has
4 authored numerous laws that have improved the lives of
5 Iowans and all people of the United States, working
6 tirelessly in service to the young, the impoverished,
7 and the disadvantaged; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Harkin introduced the Americans
9 with Disabilities Act into the Senate and shepherded
10 the bill into enactment in 1990 — a bill which could
11 be described as landmark legislation that prohibits
12 discrimination based on disability, requires buildings
13 and transportation to be wheelchair accessible, and
14 requires workplace accommodations for people with
15 disabilities; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Harkin has worked to protect
17 children throughout his career, including by protecting
18 children from child labor and exploitation such as his
19 recent efforts at exposing child labor conditions in
20 cocoa production; and

21 WHEREAS, as past Chair of the Senate Agriculture
22 Committee, Senator Harkin authored the last two
23 farm bills which advance nutrition and conservation
24 efforts and have aided Iowa in becoming a producer of
25 agricultural products to the world; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Harkin is the Chair of the Senate
27 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
28 where he has sought improvement of the health,
29 well-being, and financial security of all Iowans and
30 the people of the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Senator Harkin has
2 enjoyed the dedication and support of his wife, Ruth,
3 and daughters, Amy and Jenny; NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
5 That the House of Representatives honors United States
6 Senator Thomas Richard "Tom" Harkin for four decades of
7 public service and achievement; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That on the announcement of
9 his retirement, the House of Representatives wishes the
10 Senator, his wife, Ruth, and daughters, Amy and Jenny,
11 the best in the years to come.